

Attorney Docket No. AHUG.015
Serial No. 10/671,141
Response to Office Action mailed 7/17/2006

C. Remarks

1. Status of the Claims. Claims 2 and 4-70 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 3 are pending.

2. The Drawings. The examiner objected to the drawings in regard to claims 10, 11, 27, 28, 60 and 61. Claims 10, 11, 27, 28, 60, and 61 have been canceled.

3. The Specification.

The examiner objected to the abstract and specification paragraphs [0061], [0074], and [0075] as well as paragraphs containing reference to application 10/146,288. Applicant has amended the abstract and specification with appropriate corrections.

The examiner objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter in that "a plurality of transmission means, first plurality of transmission means, and second plurality of transmission means" (lines 9-13 of claim 1) does not have proper antecedent basis in the specification. The limitations "a plurality of transmission means, first plurality of transmission means, and second plurality of transmission means" have been canceled.

4. Claim objections. Claim 1 has been amended to address the claim objections to claim 1. The remaining claims with objections have been canceled.

5. Claim rejections 35 USC 112. The examiner rejections of claims 10, 11, 27, 28, 39, 40, 60 and 61 are moot due to cancellation of the claims.

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6. Double patenting. Applicant acknowledges the provisional double patenting rejection, and submits that a terminal disclaimer at this point is premature since the claims have not been finalized.

7. Claim rejections 35 USC 102.

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 over Moon (US 2,750,569) individually, Curlett (US 4,836,305) individually, and Wilson (US 1,781,091) individually.

Applicant submits that the amended independent claim 1 distinguishes over each of the cited patents. Neither Moon, Curlett nor Wilson, individually or in combination, disclose (1) a center spline with coaxially positioned outer splines that intermesh with receptacle splines in a cavity of the socket and that can be engaged in a plurality of orientations to align a plurality of first connectors in a plug with a plurality of second connectors in a socket, and (2) a plug where the plug center spline, the plug outer splines and the first conduits are made of unitary construction with each other—i.e. made in one piece, and a socket where the socket, the socket receptacle, the socket receptacle splines and the second conduits are of unitary construction with each other—i.e. made in one piece.

Respectfully submitted,



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